

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Greece

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SUBJECT Disagreement among Papagos Followers

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1. John Diakos and Spyros Markezinis are reported to be striving already to oust one another from the party of Field Marshal Alexander Papagos. This is a result of different views held by them regarding the composition of the lists of candidates. Diakos believes that Papagos' best chances for election lie in running hitherto unknown political candidates, and that the running of Markezinis, who is still unpopular with the majority of Greeks, will seriously damage Papagos' chances. Markezinis, together with Panagiotis Kanellopoulos and Stephanos Stephanopoulos, are insisting that they run on the ticket and are also insisting on bringing in their old-time political supporters. Diakos feels that this is against Papagos' idea of making a fresh start without commitments and alliances with old party politicians throughout the country.

2. Papagos, [REDACTED] is definitely tending to favor Markezinis and already is planning to include politicians who are tied in with the old parties.
3. Christos Katsambas¹, wealthy textile manufacturer, is probably giving Papagos considerable financial backing since he is close to Markezinis' father and has supported Markezinis heavily in the past.
4. Other Papagos followers are disturbed that disagreements among Papagos' new and hastily achieved political family may wreck his chances of success.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. Katsambas figured prominently in early 1950 because he was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and fined five million drachmas for refusing to sell goods at the established prices. It was alleged by his friends that his prosecution had a political motivation. Apparently, Katsambas was to have been the Patras parliamentary candidate of Markezinis' New Party in the March 1950 elections, but was unable to run because of his imprisonment.

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